

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the outstanding Official Action dated April 22, 2002, the shortened statutory period for filing a response being set to expire on July 22, 2002. In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Notice of Allowance is now in order.

The present application includes claims 1-25, 29-74, 89-107 and 172. Of the pending claims, claims 1-25, 29-74 and 172 have been allowed by the Examiner. As to the rejected claims 89-107, Applicant has cancelled these claims without disclaimer or prejudice. In this regard, Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuing applications containing the rejected claims for further prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 89-107 is not to be interpreted as an admission by Applicant that these claims are unpatentable over the cited prior art. In view of the cancellation of the non-allowed claims, Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

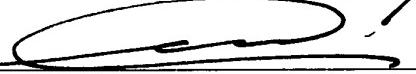
Applicant also submits herewith proposed drawing corrections for consideration by the Examiner with respect to Figs. 8, 10B, 10C, 11B, 11C and 11D. The proposed changes have been designated in red for consideration and approval. The proposed changes do not introduce new matter, but rather, are for consistency in the disclosed features of the invention as illustrated in the drawings. Upon approval by the Examiner, Applicant will submit formal drawings to the Official Draftsperson.

As all claims now pending in this application have been allowed, Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the Examiner is of the opinion that the foregoing action cannot be taken, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 518-6333 so as to overcome any

additional objections she may have. If there are any fees to be incurred in connection with this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account no. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: May 17, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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